

## BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

### REGULAR MEETING

**Monday, March 13, 2000**

Present: June Bailey, James Johnston, M.S. Mitchell, Trix Niernberger, Leon Robinson, and William Sanders

Absent: Joe McLeland

Also Present: Kristine Booze; Mike Rice - President, Jones Rice Foster, Landscape Architects Planners; Rick Baker – Vice President, Kansas Vietnam Veterans & Family Reunion; and Larry Hoetmer, Doug Kupper, Janice McKinney, and Maryann Crockett (Staff)

President Mitchell called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m. The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2000, were reviewed and approved.

1. **Discussion of Safety Awareness (Public Service Announcements) for area Parks.** Larry Hoetmer, Landscape Architect, briefly reviewed the item stating that Kristine Booze was the mother of Zachary DeVerger, an eight year old boy who was hit and killed by a car in 1998 near Brownthrush Park. He said a sculpture donated by Kristine was being installed at Brownthrush, but that was a separate project. He said Kristine had been working with Davis Moore and Donrey Outdoor Advertising on a community-wide safety awareness campaign. He said Donrey was donating five billboards for the campaign and provided board members a copy of the advertisement, which included artwork drawn by Zachary and his siblings, a picture of Zachary and the safety message “Watch out for KIDS”.

Hoetmer said the proposal was to expand the campaign to include installation of signs at various park locations. He introduced Kristine Booze and commented that Ms. Booze had spent a tremendous amount of time and energy to make the campaign a success. Ms. Booze stated that she had met with Mayor Knight who had endorsed the idea. She said the size, number and location of the proposed signs was open for discussion and asked the board for their support of the concept. She said several locations had been discussed for sign placement such as South Lakes and Brownthrush Parks.

Niernberger asked about costs associated with the proposal. Hoetmer explained that there would be no cost to the City. Mitchell asked about sign maintenance. Director Kupper explained that once the campaign was completed, if signs were damaged they would be removed. There was discussion regarding placing signs along park entrances and exits. Mitchell asked about names of sponsors being displayed on public property. Director Kupper stated that staff would check with the City’s Public Information Office, but added that children’s safety was the most important issue. Ms. Booze mentioned that the signs could be altered to show the City’s support and sponsorship of the program.

Bailey asked about the size of the signs. Director Kupper responded that several sizes were being discussed and that the signs should be large enough to be noticed, but not obstruct the view.

On motion by Johnston, second by Robinson, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve the concept, subject to City Administration and City Council approval.

2. **Discussion of Needs Assessment Study.** Larry Hoetmer, Landscape Architect, gave a brief background on the item stating that the City developed a "Request for Proposal" for a needs assessment study on Brooks Landfill, Chapin Landfill and Garvey (YMCA) Park. He said the idea was to develop the parks through grass roots planning methods and input from the community. He introduced Mike Rice, President and Project Manager, Jones Rice Foster, Landscape Architects Planners, the company who had been awarded the contract.

Mr. Rice provided board members with a copy of the "Project Process" which highlighted the steps the firm would take to complete the study. Steps included identification of stakeholders, public meetings, establishment of a City staff resource committee to identify issues and collect planning data, establishment of an "oversight team" of community representatives to oversee the project and determine goals and objectives, development of concept alternatives for each park site and completion of a final report.

Rice reported that strong emphasis would be placed on working with community groups, needs of the park and recreation system as identified in the Park and Open Space Plan and other planning documents, and evaluation of the park sites themselves. He mentioned that two of the sites were former landfills, which limited development activities. He briefly reviewed each park site commenting on current and former uses, issues/items particular to each site, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) dollars allocated for development of each site.

Board members asked several questions relative to how the sites were currently being used, future use and development of the Kingsbury site adjacent to Brooks Landfill, recreational rights and public access along the river, and requirements for tree plantings, monitoring systems and other issues related to development of the former landfill areas. Niernberger expressed concern regarding development of the landfill sites with regard to environmental issues. Rice commented that all Kansas Department of Health and Environmental (KDHE) standards and regulations would be met during the development process.

Rice concluded by inviting board members to a public meeting on March 30, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. at Hyde Park Shelter. (The meeting has been rescheduled to April 10, 2000.)

3. **Grove Park – Updated Plan.** Larry Hoetmer, Landscape Architect, referred board members to an architectural rendering of the proposed park development. He commented that staff had reviewed the earlier plan and pared down development costs. He reviewed various park amenities including placement of additional football fields, the golf practice area which had been changed to several putting greens and eight to nine tees, the playground, the picnic area along Hillside, additional parking facilities and a possible tie-in with the K-96 bicycle path. Niernberger questioned the need for more golf facilities. Hoetmer explained that the practice area was being developed for youth and junior golf. He added that the entire park plan was developed with input from the surrounding community and that park development was

geared towards youth sports. He commented that CIP funds had been earmarked for park development in phases over the next three years. He said staff would like to focus on the football fields, road, playground, parking area and restrooms first.

Director Kupper mentioned the possibility of asking the National Guard to do the road grading, dirt work at the football fields and berms at the golf practice area. Bailey asked if any of the volunteers or community organizations had been contacted recently regarding the status of the park plan. Hoetmer said no, but added that the consultant (Savoy, Ruggles & Bohm, P.A.) was developing a "shopping list" for volunteers and organizations to choose from. He said the proposed plan will be presented to the Development Coordinating Committee (DCC) next week. Mitchell asked about location of the football fields. There was brief discussion regarding expansion of the youth football program and location of fields throughout the City.

4. **Discussion and Approval of the 1999 Annual Report.** Mitchell referred board members to the copy of the report provided with the agenda. He stated that he spoke to Joe McLeland, who could not be present at the meeting, on the telephone. He said McLeland objected to the language in the report regarding the price for the 1.5 acre parcel at Tyler and Maple Streets being too high and that the parcel would not be acquired unless it was donated. McLeland said he did not think that was the Board's position, and Mitchell commented that he agreed with him. Mitchell said he thought the Board voted to recommend that the City negotiate for the property. There was discussion regarding striking part of the statement. The Board asked the Clerk to look up the minutes. The Clerk read the minutes of several meetings and it was agreed that the Board had voted unanimously to recommend that the City enter into negotiations with Mennonite Housing for acquisition of the property for park purposes. Mitchell requested that the Annual Report be amended to indicate that action.

On motion by Sanders, second by Johnston, IT WAS VOTED 5-0 to approve the report as amended. (Niernberger abstained.)

### **OFF THE AGENDA ITEM**

1. **West Bank Stage – Kansas Vietnam Veterans and Family Reunion.** Rick Baker – Vice President, Kansas Vietnam Veterans & Family Reunion. Mr. Baker referred board members to correspondence from Ben Mitchell, President, Kansas Vietnam Veterans & Family Reunion, dated March 9, 2000. Mr. Baker explained that the Kansas Vietnam Veterans & Family Reunion was a not-for-profit organization chartered under U.S. Internal Revenue Code 501 (c). He said the group holds the Family Reunion once a year for three days at El Dorado State Park. He said the Reunion has been taking place for the last twelve years and that it attracts Vietnam Veterans and their families from all over the country.

Baker stated that in the past they have used four old flatbed trailers, donated by local oil companies, for a stage during the event. He commented that performer safety was a concern due to the age and condition of the trailers. He said they understood there were no plans to utilize the West Bank Stage, once the new amphitheater was built, and requested that the City grant the Stage to the group for installation at El Dorado State Park. He said the group would remove the structure from its present location at no cost or liability to the City.

There was discussion concerning the history of the stage and the organizations and volunteers that participated in its development and construction. Robinson commented that KFDI, Star Lumber, KGE and others were involved in construction and donation of materials for the stage. Mitchell said he did not believe the Board had the authority to donate the stage, just to make a recommendation to City Administration and the City Council. Niernberger suggested that staff talk to the groups who participated in building the stage prior to making a decision on the issue. Staff explained that once the stage was completed and donated to the City, it became City property. Niernberger suggested that the City advertise the stage in order to get broader participation. She added that she was concerned about how this item was being addressed and questioned the process, since the item was not on the agenda.

On motion by Johnston, second by Sanders, IT WAS VOTED 5-1 to recommend that the City grant the stage to the Vietnam Veterans organization. (Niernberger voted – No.)

### **OTHER ITEMS**

- Niernberger expressed concern regarding discussing Off Agenda items the day of the meeting. She said she believed that prevented board members from being prepared and also prevented public participation in the discussion. She commented that the By Laws indicate agenda items should be mailed to the Board prior to the meeting, and she requested that the Board follow that process. She referred board members to Article 3 of Section 2 of the By Laws. Staff agreed to eliminate Off Agenda items in the future. Johnston suggested that if the Board wanted to address an item not on the agenda, it could be taken up under Other Business by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board.
- Burtnett asked about the status of the Request for Proposal for the design consultant for Riverside Park. Staff said they would check on the RFP's and report at the next meeting.
- Robinson asked about the status of the Greiffenstein school site acquisition. Bailey reported that the school board would be making a decision on that after the bond issue was decided.
- Director Kupper commented that he had requested an agency membership for the Board with the Kansas Recreation and Park Association. He also commented that he would be forwarding magazine/newspaper articles to the Board on various park and recreation issues in order to give them a more global view. He referred board members to the article entitled "Parks and Recreation: Adapting to Change" from the *MIS REPORT*.

On motion by Johnston, second by Bailey, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

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M.S. Mitchell, President

ATTEST:

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Maryann Crockett, Clerk